

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 9-12, 14, 17-20, 24-27, 31, 32, 40-42, and 46 are presented for examination. Claims 9-12, 14, and 17 are under examination, all other claims being withdrawn from consideration. Claims 9 and 17 are in independent form.

Claim 13 has been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Claims 9, 14, and 17 have been amended. Applicants submit that support for those amendments can be found in the original disclosure at least, for example, at page 20, line 13 through page 21, line 10. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Claims 9-14 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,909,602 (Nakai et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claim 9, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of first receiving means for receiving, from an image generating apparatus having a forgery judging function, a result of judgment by the image generating apparatus having the forgery judging function, and second receiving means for receiving color image data from any of the image generating apparatus having the forgery judging function and an image generating apparatus not having the forgery judging function, wherein if the color image data is received from the image generating apparatus having the forgery judging function, the color image data is received after receiving the result of judgment by the first receiving means. With these features, since color image data received from an image generating apparatus having a forgery judging function is received after receiving the result

of judgment from the image generating apparatus having the forgery judging function, the processing speed can be increased by, for example, not storing the received color image data if the judging result indicates that the color image data matches a specific image. See, for example, page 20, line 26 through page 21, line 1 and page 21, line 17 through page 22, line 12.

Applicants submit that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features of Claim 9 or the advantages obtained therefrom. In Nakai, a copy machine 92 performs forgery judging before transmitting image data to a copy machine 93. The copy machine 93 then receives the image data from copy machine 92 but does not receive the result of the forgery judging. Thus, there is nothing to suggest that copy machine 93 in Nakai includes either the claimed first receiving means for receiving a result of judgment by an image generating apparatus having a forgery judging function, or the claimed second receiving means for receiving color image data, wherein if color image is received from an image generating apparatus having the forgery judging function the image data is received after receiving the result of judgment.

Further, copy machine 92 in Nakai receives a result of forgery judging from copy machine 93, but there is nothing in that reference to disclose or suggest that copy machine 92 receives any image data from copy machine 93. Therefore, there is no suggestion that copy machine 92 has the claimed second means for receiving color image data after receiving the result of judgment.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Nakai fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature of the second receiving means as recited in independent Claim 9.

In addition, Applicants submit that copy machine 93 in Nakai judges an image and returns the judgment result to the request-source apparatus (e.g., copy machine 91), and the request-source apparatus (e.g., copy machine 91) performs an ordinary printing process or the like according to the judgment result of copy machine 93, but Applicants submit that judged image data is not sent following a judgment result. If the Examiner maintains that the features as presently claimed are disclosed by Nakai, he is respectfully requested to point out particularly where those features are disclosed.

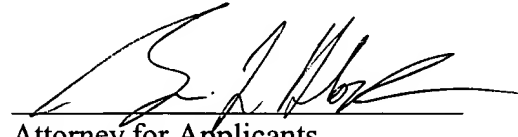
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the present invention recited in independent Claim 9 is patentable over the art of record. Independent Claim 17 is a method claim with features similar to those of Claim 9, and Claim 17 is believed to be patentable for reasons similar to Claim 9.

The dependent claims are believed patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend, as well as for the additional features they recite.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. L. Klock", is written over a horizontal line.

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